

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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THE ANNUITY, WELFARE, APPRENTICESHIP SKILL  
IMPROVEMENT & SAFETY FUNDS of the  
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS,  
LOCAL 15, 15A, 15C and 15D, AFL-CIO, by its TRUSTEES  
JAMES T. CALLAHAN, LYNN A. MOUREY, ROBERT  
SHAW and RUSSELL SHAW, and JOHN and JANE DOE,  
as Beneficiaries of the ANNUITY, WELFARE and  
APPRENTICESHIP SKILL IMPROVEMENT & SAFETY  
FUNDS of the INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING  
ENGINEERS, LOCAL 15, 15A, 15C and 15D, AFL-CIO,



COMPLAINT

07-CIV-

**07 CIV. 9642**

**JUDGE KAPLAN**

Plaintiffs,

-against-

SONIC CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.,

Defendant.

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Plaintiffs, by their attorneys, BRADY McGUIRE & STEINBERG, P.C., for their  
Complaint, respectfully allege:

1. This is an action arising under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 1001 et seq. ("ERISA") to recover delinquent contributions owed to multi-employer/employee fringe benefit trust funds.

JURISDICTION

2. The subject matter jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to Sections 502 and 515 of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 1132 and 1145.

3. Venue is properly laid in the Southern District of New York pursuant to Section 502(e)(2) of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. § 1132(e)(2), in that, as shown below, the ANNUITY, WELFARE, APPRENTICESHIP SKILL IMPROVEMENT & SAFETY FUNDS of the

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS, LOCAL 15, 15A, 15C and 15D, AFL-CIO ("LOCAL 15") are administered in the County of New York, State of New York at 265 West 14th Street, City and County of New York, State of New York.

#### THE PARTIES

4. The LOCAL 15 ANNUITY, WELFARE, APPRENTICESHIP SKILL IMPROVEMENT AND SAFETY FUNDS (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "LOCAL 15 TRUST FUNDS") are joint trustee funds established by various trust indentures pursuant to Section 302 of the LMRA, 29 U.S.C. § 186. The Trustees of the LOCAL 15 TRUST FUNDS maintain the subject plans at offices located at 265 West 14th Street, New York, New York 10011.

5. JAMES T. CALLAHAN, LYNN A. MOUREY, ROBERT SHAW and RUSSELL SHAW are Trustees of the LOCAL 15 ANNUITY, WELFARE, APPRENTICESHIP SKILL IMPROVEMENT AND SAFETY FUNDS and are "fiduciaries" within the meaning of Section 3(21) of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. § 1002(21).

6. The LOCAL 15 TRUST FUNDS also operate as the administrative representative of the Central Pension Fund of the International Union of Operating Engineers responsible for the collection of defined pension benefit contributions owed by entities maintaining collective bargaining agreements with LOCAL 15.

7. The LOCAL 15 ANNUITY FUND is an employee pension benefit plan within the meaning of Section 3(2) of the ERISA, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 1002(2), established for the purpose of providing retirement income to employees.

8. The LOCAL 15 WELFARE and APPRENTICESHIP SKILL IMPROVEMENT AND SAFETY FUNDS, are employee welfare benefit plans within the meaning of Section 3(1)

of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. § 1002(1), established for the purpose of providing medical, vacation and other benefits to the employees of contributing employers.

9. JOHN and JANE DOE are beneficiaries of the LOCAL 15 TRUST FUNDS within the meaning of Section 3(8) of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. § 1002(8).

10. The LOCAL 15 TRUST FUNDS constitute multi-employer/employee benefit plans within the meaning of Sections 3(3) and 3(37) of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. §§ 1002(3) and (37).

11. Upon information and belief, Defendant, SONIC CONSTRUCTION CO., INC. ("SONIC CONSTRUCTION") was and still is a New York corporation, with its principal place of business located at 36-28 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Long Island City, New York 11106.

12. Upon information and belief, SONIC CONSTRUCTION was and still is a foreign corporation duly licensed to do business in the State of New York.

13. Upon information and belief, SONIC CONSTRUCTION was and still is a foreign corporation doing business in the State of New York.

14. Upon information and belief, SONIC CONSTRUCTION is an employer within the meaning of Section 3(5) of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. § 1002(5).

#### AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

15. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each and every paragraph of the Complaint numbered 1 through 14 inclusive, with the same force and effect as though more fully set forth at length herein.

16. At all relevant times, SONIC CONSTRUCTION agreed to be bound by the terms and conditions of a collective bargaining agreement with LOCAL 15 dated July 18, 2002 (hereinafter the "Collective Bargaining Agreement").

17. In accordance with the underlying Collective Bargaining Agreement and the Plan Documents, the Defendant consented to the performance of an audit of SONIC CONSTRUCTION'S books and records to determine whether the Defendant had made all of its required fringe benefit contributions to the LOCAL 15 TRUST FUNDS in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement on behalf of the members of LOCAL 15 within its employ for the period of August 1, 2002 through June 30, 2005.

18. That on or about October 6, 2005, the results of said audit were detailed by the Plaintiff's auditor which determined that the Defendant had failed to provide the contractually required fringe benefit contributions for the members of LOCAL 15 in its employ for the period of August 1, 2002 through June 30, 2005 in the amount of \$54,878.00.

19. Upon information and belief, SONIC CONSTRUCTION has failed to make the contractually required fringe benefit contributions to the LOCAL 15 TRUST FUNDS for the period of August 1, 2002 through June 30, 2005 in the amount of \$54,878.00 in violation of Section 515 of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. § 1145 which requires that employers pay fringe benefit contributions in accordance with the terms and conditions of the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

20. Upon information and belief, SONIC CONSTRUCTION may owe additional contributions for the period of July 1, 2005 through Present as required by Section 515 of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. § 1145. The precise figure for the period of July 1, 2005 through Present cannot be determined because the Defendant may not have filed accurate employment reports for those months in which it was required to make contributions as required by the Collective Bargaining Agreement and Section 209 of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. § 1059.

21. Despite repeated efforts by the LOCAL 15 TRUST FUNDS to collect the contributions owed, SONIC CONSTRUCTION remains delinquent in making the proper contributions and has failed to pay any portion of the outstanding contributions owed to the LOCAL 15 TRUST FUNDS as detailed above.

22. Section 502 of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. § 1132 provides that upon a finding of an employer's violation of Section 515 of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. § 1145, the Court shall award to the Plaintiff Trust Funds: (a) the amount owed in unpaid fringe benefit contributions; together with (b) interest on the unpaid contributions computed at the rate provided for under the Plaintiff Trust Fund's Plan, or if none, at the rate set forth in the United States Internal Revenue Code at 26 U.S.C. § 6621; (c) statutory damages; (d) reasonable attorneys' fees; and (e) the costs and disbursements of the action.

23. Accordingly, as a direct and proximate result of SONIC CONSTRUCTION'S defaults, omissions and breaches of the Collective Bargaining Agreement and Section 515 of ERISA, Defendant SONIC CONSTRUCTION is liable to the Plaintiffs in the amount of no less than \$54,878.00 along with potentially additional contributions for the subsequent period not covered by the audit, together with accumulated interest on the unpaid and/or untimely paid principal amount due and owing, statutory damages, reasonable attorneys' fees, and the costs and disbursements incurred in this action pursuant to Section 502 of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. § 1132.

**AS AND FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

24. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege each and every paragraph of the Complaint numbered 1 through 23 inclusive, with the same force and effect as though more fully set forth at length herein.

25. Under the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement and ERISA, an employer is required to make payments to the LOCAL 15 TRUST FUNDS and the Central Pension Fund based upon, and to provide its employees hours and wages to the LOCAL 15 TRUST FUNDS and the Central Pension Fund.

26. Under the terms of the LOCAL 15 TRUST FUNDS' Agreements, the Central Pension Fund's Trust Fund Agreement, State law and ERISA, Plaintiffs are entitled to audit SONIC CONSTRUCTION'S books and records.

27. Upon information and belief, Defendant may have underreported the number of employees, the amount of employee hours and wages paid to its employees and the contributions due for the period of July 1, 2005 through Present.

28. Plaintiffs therefore demand an audit of SONIC CONSTRUCTION'S books and records.

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiffs demand judgment on the First Cause of Action as follows:

1. Of Defendant SONIC CONSTRUCTION CO., INC., in the amount of contributions determined to be due and owing to the Funds of \$54,878.00, plus any additional monies that may be determined to become justly due and owing to the LOCAL 15 TRUST FUNDS during the pendency of this action and before final judgment, together with:

- a. Prejudgment interest, computed at the plan rate or the applicable United States Treasury rate from the date on which the first payment was due on the total amount owed by Defendants, in accordance with Section 502(g)(2)(B) of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. § 1132(g)(2)(B);
- b. Statutory damages in accordance with Section 502(g)(2)(C) of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. § 1132(g)(2)(C);

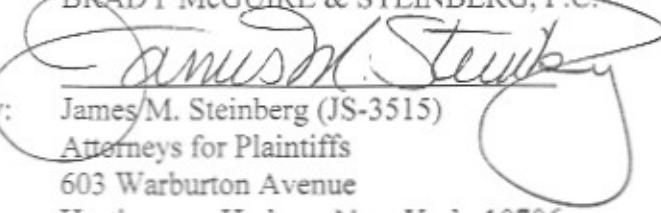
- c. Attorneys' fees, costs and disbursements in accordance with Section 502(g)(2)(D) of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. § 1132(g)(2)(D); and
- d. Such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper in accordance with Section 502(g)(2)(E) of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. § 1132(g)(2)(E).

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiffs demand judgment on the Second Cause of Action as follows:

1. An order requiring Defendant SONIC CONSTRUCTION CO., INC. to submit all books and records to Plaintiffs for audit at its cost in accordance with Section 502(g)(2)(E) of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. § 1132(g)(2)(E);
2. Such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper in accordance with Section 502(g)(2)(E) of ERISA, 29 U.S.C. § 1132(g)(2)(E).

Dated: Hastings-on-Hudson, New York  
October 26, 2007

Yours, etc.

BRADY McGUIRE & STEINBERG, P.C.  
  
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